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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/193,058	11/16/1998	ALBERT S. FENG	22010-127	1589

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EXAMINER

HARVEY, MINSUN OH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2644

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/193,058

Applicant(s)

FENG et al

Examiner

MINSUN HARVEY

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34, 35, 38, 43-47, 50⁵ and 56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 36, 37, 39-42, 48, 49, and 51-54⁴ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3,6,7 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2644

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 34, 35, 43, 45, 46, 47 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chu.

Chu discloses a method of signal processing, comprising: detecting an acoustic excitation at both a first location to provide a corresponding first signal (422L of fig. 6) and at a second location to provide a corresponding second signal (422H), the excitation being a composite of desired acoustic signal from a first source and an interfering acoustic signal from a second source spaced apart from the first source (output of 427); determining location of the second source relative to the first source as a function of the first and second signals; generating a characteristic signal representative of the desired acoustic signal during performance of the determining (col. 8,

Art Unit: 2644

line 58 to col. 9, line 20); and providing an output signal representative of the desired acoustic signal as a function of the characteristic signal (output of processor 500).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 44 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu.

Chu does not disclose separation of the second source is within five degrees of the first source. However, even though Chu does not explicitly disclose that the second source is within five degrees of the first source, since Chu has disclosed separating locations of a plurality sources (411L, 411H, 422L, 422H, 421L, 421H, 412L and 412H), it would have been obvious to have the second source within five degrees of the first source as claimed because it would merely depend upon a design choice.

5. Claims 38 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu in view of Lehr.

Chu does not disclose that the output signal is provided by a hearing device.

Lehr discloses a method of signal processing and which is comprised of generating a desired acoustic signal which includes speech (output of 19) and the output signal is provided by

Art Unit: 2644

a hearing aid device (12). Since Lehr has disclosed using a hearing aid device to provide a desired acoustic signal, it would have been obvious to combine Lehr's teaching with Chu because Chu's microphone system could be used within hearing aid device of Lehr for reproducing speech with less noise.

6. Claims 36, 37, 39-42, 48, 49, 51-54 and 55 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Minsun Oh Harvey** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-6741**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Bill Isen**, can be reached at **(703) 305-4386**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

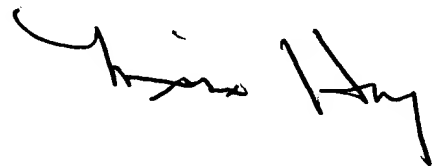
Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Art Unit: 2644

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone
number is (703) 306-0377.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Minsun Oh Harvey", written in a cursive style.

**MINSUN OH HARVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER**